Subsidy in Haj Pilgrim

5346. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims carried by Air India this year and last year from India;

(b) whether the Haj passengers are given subsidy on their travel ticket;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would like to subsidise the Air Travel Tickets for the pilgrimage of other religious groups especially non- muslims;

(e) if so, the details of the plan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) During Haj 1999 and Haj 2000 movement Air India transported 62103 and 71924 pilgrims respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The subsidy amount for the years 1999 and 2000 works out to Rs. 97.61 crores and Rs. 137.10 crores provisionally.

(d), (e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal to subsidise Air Travel for any other pilgrims Groups.

Operation of Escalators at IGI Airport, Delhi

5347. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the escalator at the Indira Gandhi International Airport is still not functioning after the recent accident;

(b) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism have brought to the notice of the Ministry that the passengers especially old people, ladies and children are facing lots of inconvenience due to non-operation of the escalator;

(c) if so, when Government will bring the escalator in operation at IGI Airport in order to avoid inconvenience to the passengers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The escalators, at present, are under overhauling and upgradation and are likely to be put into operation shortly. In the absence of escalators, lifts are in use at the IGI airport to facilitate passengers.

(d) Does not arise.

World Class Transhipment Cargo Hub in Delhi

5348. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India plan to create a world class transhipment hub air cargo in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it is proposed to be financed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is going to appoint a consultant to advise on the modalities of setting up of the proposed JV Parallel Cargo Terminal and development of Delhi as a major transhipment hub.

Refusal by AI Pilots to take-off Plane after Emergency stop

5349. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India pilots refuse to fly after plane makes emergency stop for ailing passenger as happened on 14th February, 2000 on Dubai-Cochin flight;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Flight No. AI 700 flying between Dubai and Cochin on February 14, 2000 made an unscheduled landing at Mumbai due to medical emergency of one of the passengers. In view of the airplane having landed at Mumbai which is Air India's base, the first officer refused to operate the flight to Cochin by taking recourse to clause 4.2 of DGCA circular No. A/C 28 of 1992 on Flight and Duty Time Limitation for flying crew which states that The Air Carrier